



City of Santa Barbara



Get Ready Santa Barbara! Send a Message in 2010, Be Prepared

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Test Your Plan

Practice Makes Perfect

How will your family react when a flood, fire, earthquake, or another emergency occurs? How well does your plan identify everyone's roles and responsibilities?

One way to find out how well your plans and procedures are going to work is to practice them! Plan a drill based on a possible flood, fire, earthquake or other disaster. Testing your plan this way will help you identify and correct any weaknesses before a real emergency occurs.

Another way to test your plan is to practice living without the normal everyday conveniences—such as electricity and gas. This might include a campout. Make it a creative and learning experience for the whole family.

Testing your family's response and correcting weaknesses is the next step in preparing and might save lives.

Check out these websites:
www.redcross.org (American Red Cross)
www.ready.gov (US Dept of Homeland Security)

Planning Drills

A drill allows your family to practice your plan. The drill should be designed to provide participants with experience in their roles before a real emergency, increase the confidence of family members, and identify weaknesses in your plan.

Table Top Drill

Start by planning a tabletop drill. The tabletop will be based on a simulated earthquake or other disaster that will include problems that you and your family are likely to face.

To Conduct the Tabletop:

- ☐ Assemble participants around a table or in the same room
- ☐ Distribute printed copies of the scenario*
- ☐ Read the scenario out loud
- ☐ Read each problem, one at a time.
- ☐ Encourage everyone to respond as completely as possible to each question.

*A written description of a simulated earthquake or other disaster that is used for table top drills is called a scenario



To Conduct an Effective Drill:

- Add new and more challenging problems to the scenario used in the tabletop
- Set up separate drills for each function. For example:

Date	Function
Jan	First Aid
Apr	Damage Assessment
July	Communications
Oct	Shut off of utilities

- Explain the purpose and ground rules of the drill

This will bring the family together to discuss different aspects of the plan and make changes as necessary.

In conclusion, people don't do what they've learned. They do what they've practiced!

2010 Upcoming Topics

July
Fire Safety

August
Back to School

September
Test Your Plan

October
Communicate & Recover

November
Stop, Think, Look & Act

December
Give the Gift of Life

Disaster Focus: Terrorism

*General Information on Terrorism

Throughout human history, there have been many threats to the security of nations. These threats have brought about large-scale losses of life, the destruction of property, widespread illness and injury, the displacement of large numbers of people, and devastating economic loss.

Recent technological advances and ongoing international political unrest are components of the increased risk to national security. Terrorism is the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal laws of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion, or ransom.

Terrorists often use threats to:

- Create fear among the public.
- Try to convince citizens that their government is powerless to prevent terrorism.
- Get immediate publicity for their causes.

Acts of terrorism include threats of terrorism; assassinations; kidnappings; hijackings; bomb scares and bombings; cyber attacks (computer-based); and the use of chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological weapons.

High-risk targets for acts of terrorism include military and civilian government facilities, international airports, large cities, and high-profile landmarks. Terrorists might also target large public gatherings, water and food supplies, utilities, and corporate centers. Further, terrorists are capable of spreading fear by sending explosives or chemical and biological agents through the mail.

Within the immediate area of a terrorist event, you would need to rely on police, fire, and other officials for instructions.

**Excerpt taken from FEMA Website:*

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/terrorism/info.shtm>

Types of Terrorist Acts:



Biological incidents. Several biological agents can be adapted and used as terrorist weapons. These include anthrax (sometimes found in sheep), tularemia (or rabbit fever), cholera, encephalitis, the plague (sometimes found in prairie dog colonies), and botulism (found in improperly canned food).

Toxins are toxic substances of natural origin produced by an animal, plant, or microbe. They differ from chemical agents in that they are not manmade and typically they are much more complex materials.



Incendiary incidents. An incendiary device is any mechanical, electrical, or chemical device used intentionally to initiate combustion and start a fire. A delay mechanism consists of chemical, electrical, or mechanical elements.



Nuclear Incidents. There are two fundamentally different threats in the area of nuclear terrorism. One is the use, threatened use, or threatened detonation, of a nuclear bomb. The other is the detonation, or threatened detonation, of a conventional explosive incorporating nuclear materials (radiological dispersal devices or RDD).

Explosive incidents The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) defines an explosive as a substance fitting into one of these two categories: 1) any substance or article, including a device, designed to function by explosion (e.g., an extremely rapid release of gas and heat); or 2) any substance or article, including a device, which, by chemical reaction within itself, can function in a similar manner even if not designed to function by explosion, unless the substance or article is otherwise classified.

It is estimated that 70 percent of all terrorist attacks worldwide involve explosives.

HISTORY OF TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Since the 1900s there have been approximately 78 forms of terrorist attacks in the United States. From the 1920 Wall Street Bombing that killed 38 people to the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The majority of terrorist attacks have been from domestic terrorist groups such as: the Klu Klux Klan, the Weathermen, the Army of God, Animal Liberation Front (ALF), Earth Liberation Front (ELF), Unabomber, and many unnamed leaderless groups. The best way to combat terrorism is to be prepared for any type of disaster.



September 2010 is the seventh annual NPM. This year will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness. Now is the time to take steps this month to prepare your family, neighborhood and community for emergencies and disasters.

- Put together an emergency supply kit
- Make a Family emergency plan
- Be prepared to help your neighbor
- Work as a Team to keep everyone safe

Check out the OES Website for more information or go to the Ready.gov website for more information.

City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services



We're on the web!

<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/OES>

OES Manager: Yolanda McGlinchey
E-mail: YMcGlinchey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
Created by: Lindsay Barker, MPH